



2110 North Patterson Street
Post Office Box 1963
Valdosta, GA 31603-1963
Telephone (229) 259-9972
Facsimile (229) 259-9973
E-Mail: info@industrialauthority.com

Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

October 20, 2006

Re: WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear FCC Commissioners:

I am writing to urge expeditious approval of the BellSouth/AT&T merger. As Executive Director of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Industrial Authority, I know first hand of the issues which impede economic growth in the rural areas of the State of Georgia. This merger will address one of the most critical needs required of any community seeking to grow its economy and new jobs – affordable and universal broadband Internet access.

The proposed AT&T/BellSouth merger could be the catalyst for dynamic economic change, especially in our rural communities. As proposed conditions of the merger, AT&T and BellSouth have committed to deliver *affordable* and *universal* access to broadband, including:

- ☑ A new residential broadband offering at \$10 per month, affording many rural communities a viable alternative to dial access;
- ☑ A pledge to provide broadband Internet access to *all* residential living units in the AT&T/BellSouth service area, thus providing rural economic developers with a necessary tool to recruit new economic development prospects to our rural communities.

The merger of these great American companies will significantly enhance the economic viability of the communities we serve. I ask you to approve the AT&T/BellSouth merger without further delay.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Lofton".

Brad Lofton
Executive Director
Valdosta-Lowndes County Industrial Authority